

**USA Swimming Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2022 / Virtual Zoom Call**

CALL TO ORDER

USA Swimming Steering Committee staff liaison, Lindsay Mintenko, called the February 18, 2022 Steering Committee meeting to order at 11:00 am Mountain Time with the following members in attendance:

PRESENT

Committee Members: Cammile Adams, Gunnar Bentz, Bob Bowman, Carol Capitani, Dave Durden, Bruce Gemmell (Chair), Catherine Kase, Teri McKeever, Greg Meehan, Lindsay Mintenko, Ginny Nussbaum, Davis Tarwater

USA Swimming Staff: Matt Barbini, Carli Brashier, Bryce Elser, Tim Hinchey, Keenan Robinson, Joel Shinofield, MJ Truex

INTRODUCTIONS

Guests: 2022 World Championship Head Coaches Todd DeSorbo and Anthony Nesty; AAC Chair Caitlin Leverenz Smith

USA Swimming Guests: Dean Ekeren, Shana Ferguson, Belle McLemore

2022 PHILLIPS 66 INTERNATIONAL TEAM TRIALS

Background Information

Lindsay Mintenko presented the background for how and what information was received from FINA in regards to the 2022 World Championships. On February 7 received notification of new dates and a location for the additional 2022 World Championships to be held in Budapest, Hungary from June 18 through July 3, 2022. Initially told the qualification period deadline would be May 15 and determined to keep the Trials dates the same given this deadline. This week provided information that exemptions for Trials dates already set that would occur after the deadline were due to FINA by Tuesday, February 22. The timeline to approve the exemption was unknown, but could be as late as Friday, February 25, pushing the decision to move the Trials dates another week.

Event Perspective

Dean Ekeren presented information on the challenges from the event logistics perspective of changing the dates of the Trials including: limited facility availability with other major swim meets already planned for the proposed new Trials dates in May, NBC broadcast schedule, hotel blocks, contractors, moving Pro Swim Series dates like Mission Viejo (impact on sponsors), and putting hardships on the meet hosts for events already planned for May 17-21.

Ms. Mintenko added moving the Trials dates to May included two major assumptions: 1) there would be a large enough venue to host the Trials event in May, and 2) FINA would grant our exemption.

Discussion

Ms. Mintenko asked Steering Committee Chair, Bruce Gemmell, to provide comments. Mr. Gemmell highlighted our Trial dates had already been established before the May 15 qualification period and

therefore did not meet the language required for an exemption. Additionally, he mentioned a potential conflict with the Indy 500 should Trials be held in Indianapolis.

Ms. Mintenko asked AAC Chair, Caitlin Leverenz Smith, to provide feedback she had received from athletes regarding the movement of the Trials dates to May. Ms. Smith expressed many athletes desire for consistency and that it was better to keep the Trials dates in April as announced.

Ms. Mintenko then opened it up for a group discussion:

- Change dates to May 17-21:
 - Better for NCAA athletes to have a longer training block (eight weeks) before Trials
 - Keep to more traditional number of days between Trials and competition
 - More opportunities for LCM racing prior to Trials
- Keep dates April 26-30:
 - Do not want another calendar change (change fatigue)
 - Want consistency (longer stretch after NCAAs might be better, but consistency more important)
 - April was one known date for a while to plan towards
 - Reminder that whole team will not be comprised of NCAA athletes and the impact change has on wider membership
 - Athlete faith in coaches to figure out how to adapt to longer amount of time between Trials and competition
 - Would rather have extra training time after Trials to prepare for competition
 - Coaches need to learn to adapt to calendar with more meets and different schedules
 - Logistical uncertainties if able to get an appropriate venue for Trials
 - Not sure how important peak performance is for this meet (typically a Pan Pacs year in the quad)
 - Counter argument was the importance of Worlds for rookies who might make the team
 - Same team likely to get selected whether Trials held in April or May
 - Open water perspective, dates for OW Nationals already set and desire to get some OW races in before OW Worlds, which April pool Trials always the cross over open water athletes to do

MOTION

Tim Hinchey thanked everyone for their input. Mr. Hinchey then proposed someone make a motion based on the discussion.

Mr. Gemmell proposed a motion to leave the Trials dates from April 26-30 in Greensboro. Bob Bowman seconded the motion. Ms. Mintenko asked if there was any further discussion; there was not. Individuals messaged Ms. Mintenko privately with their vote.

The vote was to keep Trials dates in April.

ADJOURN

Ms. Mintenko thanked everyone for their input and time and adjourned the meeting.

ATTACHEMENTS

Attachment 1- 2022 Trials Dates Considerations